

- 2 -

✓  
Please amend claims 1, 5, 9, 14 and 6-18 as follows:

sub  
B1  
A  
C1  
1. (Amended) A method of treating a kidney disease comprising administering an effective amount of isolated and purified soyasaponin B<sub>b</sub> to an animal in need thereof.

A<sup>2</sup>  
5. (Amended) A pharmaceutical composition for use in treating a kidney disease comprising an effective amount of isolated and purified soyasaponin B<sub>b</sub> in admixture with a suitable diluent or carrier, wherein the kidney disease is selected from the group consisting of polycystic kidney disease, acquired renal cystic disease, medullary cystic disease of the kidney, autosomal recessive polycystic kidney disease, hereditary interstitial nephritis, other inherited disorders in which PKD forms part of the symptomatology, persons with a potassium-wasting disorder, glomerulonephritis and the group of renal disorders associated with inflammatory and immune dysfunction in the kidney.

A<sup>3</sup>  
7. (Amended) A nutraceutical composition for use in treating a kidney disease comprising an effective amount of isolated and purified soyasaponin B<sub>b</sub> in admixture with a suitable diluent or carrier, wherein the kidney disease is selected from the group consisting of polycystic kidney disease, acquired renal cystic disease, medullary cystic disease of the kidney, autosomal recessive polycystic kidney disease, hereditary interstitial nephritis, other inherited disorders in which PKD forms part of the symptomatology, persons with a potassium-wasting disorder, glomerulonephritis and the group of renal disorders associated with inflammatory and immune dysfunction in the kidney..

sub  
B1  
A  
C1  
9. (Amended) A method of isolating soyasaponin B<sub>b</sub> from a sample comprising:  
(a) solubilizing the sample in acidified aqueous alcohol;  
(b) removing polar lipids by liquid chromatography;  
(c) solubilizing the sample from (b) in aqueous alcohol;  
(d) passing the sample from (c) through an anion exchange column;

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- sub  
B<sub>1</sub>  
C<sub>1</sub>  
A4  
concl'd
- (e) eluting the sample absorbed to column in (d) with an acidified aqueous alcohol; and
- (f) purifying the sample from (e) by liquid chromatography by passing the sample through a preparative hydrophobic interaction chromatographic column comprising an electrostatically-linked, aliphatic- or alicyclic-substituted anionic or cationic polysaccharide gel and collecting fractions containing soyasaponin B<sub>b</sub>.

A5

14. (Amended) A method according to claim 9 wherein the preparative hydrophobic interaction column is hexadecyltrimethylammonium-substituted SP Sepharose.

sub  
B<sub>1</sub>  
C<sub>1</sub>

16. (Amended) A method according to claim 1 wherein the soyasaponin B<sub>b</sub> is obtained by a method comprising:

- (a) solubilizing the sample in acidified aqueous alcohol;
- (b) removing polar lipids by liquid chromatography;
- (c) solubilizing the sample from (b) in aqueous alcohol;
- (d) passing the sample from (c) through an anion exchange column;
- (e) eluting the sample absorbed to column in (d) with an acidified aqueous alcohol; and
- (f) purifying the sample from (e) by liquid chromatography by passing the sample through a preparative hydrophobic interaction chromatographic column comprising an electrostatically-linked, aliphatic- or alicyclic-substituted anionic or cationic polysaccharide gel and collecting fractions containing soyasaponin B<sub>b</sub>.
- A6

17. (Amended) A pharmaceutical composition according to claim 5 wherein the soyasaponin B<sub>b</sub> is obtained by a method comprising:

- (a) solubilizing the sample in acidified aqueous alcohol;
- (b) removing polar lipids by liquid chromatography;
- (c) solubilizing the sample from (b) in aqueous alcohol;

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- (d) passing the sample from (c) through an anion exchange column;
- (e) eluting the sample absorbed to column in (d) with an acidified aqueous alcohol; and
- (f) purifying the sample from (e) by liquid chromatography by passing the sample through a preparative hydrophobic interaction chromatographic column comprising an electrostatically-linked, aliphatic- or alicyclic-substituted anionic or cationic polysaccharide gel and collecting fractions containing soyasaponin B<sub>b</sub>.

18. (Amended) A nutraceutical composition according to claim 7 wherein the soyasaponin B<sub>b</sub> is obtained by a method comprising:

- (a) solubilizing the sample in acidified aqueous alcohol;
- (b) removing polar lipids by liquid chromatography;
- (c) solubilizing the sample from (b) in aqueous alcohol;
- (d) passing the sample from (c) through an anion exchange column;
- (e) eluting the sample absorbed to column in (d) with an acidified aqueous alcohol; and
- (f) purifying the sample from (e) by liquid chromatography by passing the sample through a preparative hydrophobic interaction chromatographic column comprising an electrostatically-linked, aliphatic- or alicyclic-substituted anionic or cationic polysaccharide gel and collecting fractions containing soyasaponin B<sub>b</sub>.

✓  
Please add the following new claims:

sub  
b1  
7  
A  
C'  
19. (New) The composition according to claim 5, wherein the kidney disease is polycystic kidney disease.

20. (New) The composition according to claim 7, wherein the kidney disease is polycystic kidney disease.